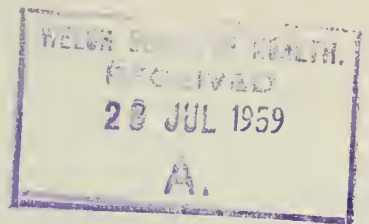


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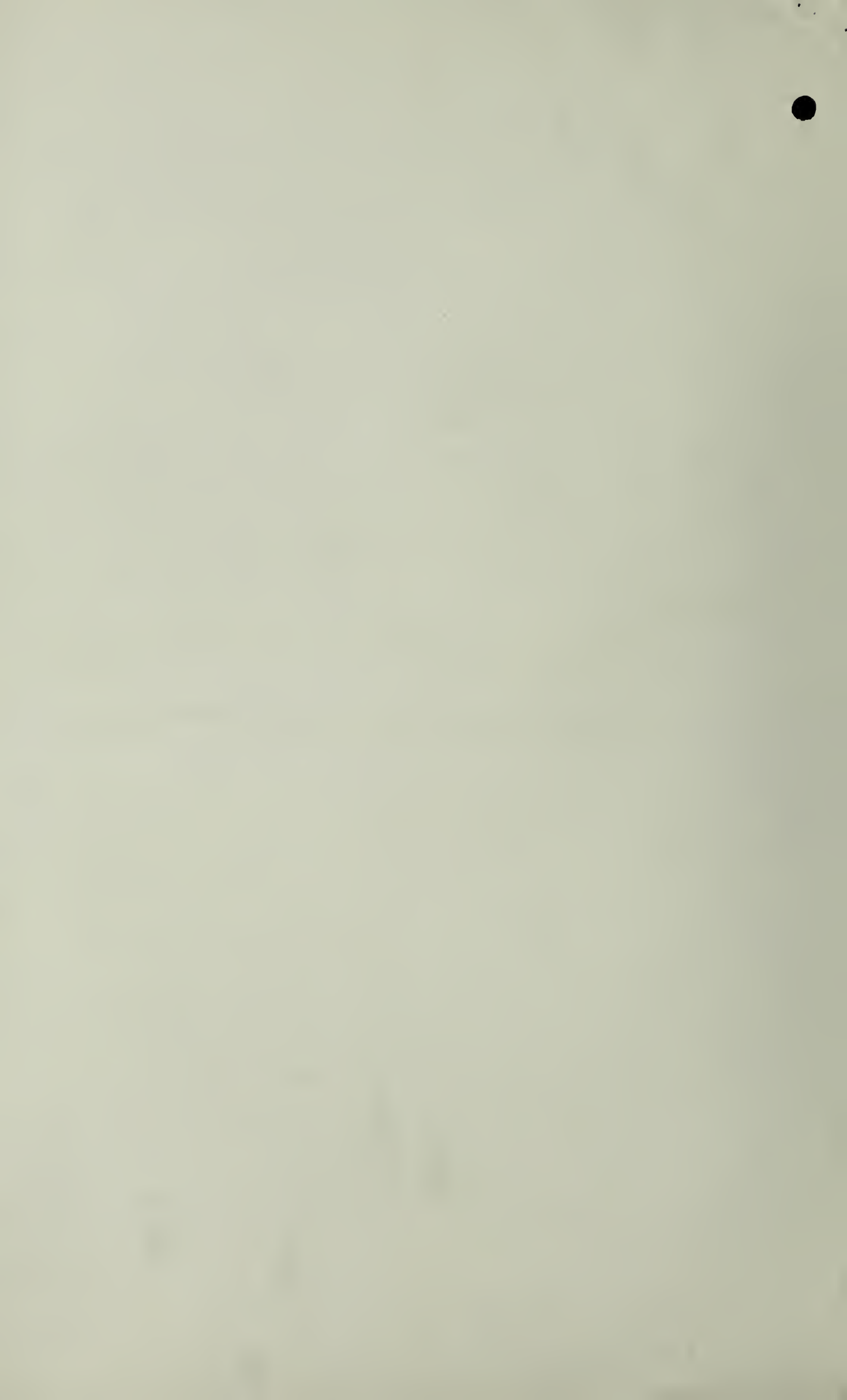


Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

Officials

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall,Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....J.C.Bowen,M.R.S.H.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. M.A.P.H.I.



Builth Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1958

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District during the year 1958.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 22/58 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. The district has an acreage of 125,944 and is a large rural area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. It consists of almost one fifth of the whole county. The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	13	24	37	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	13	24	37	11.0

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 16.4. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district death rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Illegitimate Births. No illegitimate births were registered during the year.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	19	17	36	10.7

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and was lower than the birth rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
	2	1	3	75.0

Total still birth rate for whole of England and Wales was 21.6.

Total Live and Still Births.....40.

Infantile Deaths. There were no deaths registered in children of under one year of age.

Total Infantile mortality rate.....0.
Legitimate infantile mortality rate.....0.
Illegitimate infantile mortality rate.....0.
Neo-natal mortality rate.....0.

Population.

Census 1931.....4426.
Census 1951.....3502.
Estimated midsummer 1958.....3360.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years is shown below.

1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.
3412. 3391. 3395. 3439. 3413. 3500. 3490. 3490. 3490. 3360.

The population dropped considerably between the last two census years and now appears to be again dropping.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....0.

Maternal Deaths.No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth.This is a very satisfactory feature.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....Nil.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....One.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Seven.

Number of inhabited houses.This numbers 1060 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.1.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...19. Females...17.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2.....	0.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	2.....	3.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	2.....	4.
Coronary disease.....	3.....	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	0.
Other heart disease.....	5.....	6.
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.
Ulcer stomach.....	1.....	0.
Accidents, not motor vehicle.....	2.....	0.
Suicide.....	0.....	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2.General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.No changes of officers occurred during the year, Mr.J.C.Bowen remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Hereford.All water and milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the same laboratory.

Nursing and other facilities.The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services.The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments,dental,eye and orthopaedic defects.Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals.The hospital needs of the residents of the district,for all diseases apart from infectious disease,are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years.Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council.These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital,Rhondda.

Disinfection, In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supply to the various parts of the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well. During the year the supply of water has been satisfactory at the source but there were occasional shortages due to mechanical failure. During the year the water supplies were reasonably adequate.

The water supplies in the district are now controlled by the Builth and District Water Board, the Council acting as agent for the time being. A tender for part of the major scheme was accepted during the year and the work commenced.

Number of visits to water supplies.....29.
General visits in connection with water supplies.....36.

Water Samples.

Public Supplies. The number of samples from public supplies sent for bacteriological examination was 60. Of these 46 were reported as satisfactory and 14 as unsatisfactory. In addition 27 samples were taken from private sources and private proposed supplies. 17 were reported as satisfactory and 10 as unsatisfactory.

There was a steady demand for the sampling of proposed farm supplies comprising improvement schemes under the Hill Farming Act, 1946, and a considerable amount of advice was given on the selection and protection of various proposed schemes.

Drainage and Sewerage. During the year the sewerage schemes at Erwood and Llangammarch were completed. In addition the relief drain at Llanwrthwl was commenced.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Number of visits to sewage disposal sites.....38.
Number of general visits in connection with drainage.112.

Public Cleansing. The scheme inaugurated in 1952, provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Llanafanfechan whilst the Llanynis site still awaits planning approval. Rhayader Council was approached concerning limited tipping at Newbridge, which has now commenced. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. The refuse disposal scheme for Llanwrthwl forms a separate contract and all refuse collected there is disposed of at the tip near the village. The route was extended to take in the forestry at Llanafan.

Number of visits made to refuse tips.....32.
Number of general visits in connection with refuse.....45.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. C. Bowen. The following details give information relating to the work of the public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....17.
Number of complaints investigated.....17.
Number of premises revisited.....22.
Number of notices served.....9.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....4.
Number of notices served.....0.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....14.
A new site at Elan Valley was approved.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....0.
Number of notices served.....0.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....7.
Number of visits made.....3.
Number of notices served.....0.
Number of defects found.....0.
Number of defects remedied.....0.

Camping Sites. There are two recognised camping sites in the district.
One at Cilmerly and one at Elan Valley.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bugs during the year.

Rodent Control.

Number of premises inspected.....821.
Number found infested.....230.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....227.
Number of dead rats picked up.....576.
Number of dead mice picked up.....304.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....3.
All dead rats picked up are buried.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. Twelve new houses were built by the Council during the year at Erwood. Consideration was given to the building of houses at Cilmerly, Llangammarch and Gwenddwr.

Number of houses built by private enterprise.....0.
Number of houses built by Council since war.....52.
Number of houses built by private enterprise since war.....17.
Number of applications for improvement grant received.....12.
Number of applications for improvement grant approved.....10.
Number of private houses built during the year.....Nil.

Rural Housing Survey. Details of parishes surveyed during the year are given below:

Llanafanfechain. Number of houses.....33.
Number unfit.....4.

Gwarafog. Number of houses.....14.
Number unfit.....Nil.

Llanlleonfel. Number of houses.....26.
Number unfit.....Nil.

<u>Rhosferig.</u>	Number of houses.....21.
	Number unfit.....Nil.
<u>Alltmawr.</u>	Number of houses.....6.
	Number unfit.....1.
<u>Llanwrtyd Without.</u>	Number of houses.....59.
	Number unfit.....2.
<u>Penbualt.</u>	Number of houses.....120.
	Number unfit.....13.
<u>Llandewi Abergwesyn.</u>	Number of houses.....11.
	Number unfit.....1.

Rent Act, 1957. One certificate of disrepair issued.

No Demolition Orders were made during the year. Provision was made in Llangammarch and Cilmeri housing scheme for rehousing of families from houses scheduled for demolition.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....19.
 Number of samples taken, and were satisfactory.....25.
 Ten samples were also taken and examined for tuberculosis and abortus.
 Of these, two were positive for abortus. Arrangements were made to get this milk pasteurised before consumption.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all meat is supplied to the district from the slaughterhouse in Colwyn Rural District, and also from a newly opened slaughterhouse in Builth U.D.C.

Meat Condemned. 22lbs. 5ozs. of bacon was condemned and destroyed.

Ice Cream Premises. There were two retailers of ice cream in the district, one now being registered during the year. Also sold by mobile van.

Number of inspections.....One.
 Number of Notices.....Nil.

Food Premises. The following food premises remained in operation at end of year.

Grocers.....17 (one supplying ice cream)
 Public houses and hotels.....11.
 Dairies.....1.
 Cafes.....1.
 Market Halls.....1.

The district is also served by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge.

Facilities for the disposal of condemned food are available at the Gas Works.

Food Preparation Rooms.

Number of visits.....10.
 Number of Notices.....4.

Educational Activities. No such activities occurred during the year.

Other general visits, not specified above.....46.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Measles.....12 cases.
 Meningococcal meningitis.....1 case
 Whooping cough.....4 cases.
 Scarlet fever.....2 cases.

The case of meningococcal meningitis was removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital where complete recovery occurred. All other cases were nursed at home. No deaths were caused by infectious disease during the year.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....14.
 Number of fresh cases added during the year.....2.
 Number of deaths during the year.....1.
 Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....0.
 Number of cases which left the district.....0.
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....15.

The Number of notifications in recent years is shown below.

1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

1. 1. 1. 9. 1. 0. 4. 3. 4. 2. 2.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health